

Maritime Prepositioning Force

Discussion

The Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) is a strategic power projection capability that combines the capacity and flexibility of prepositioned sealift with the speed of strategic airlift. Strategically placed around the globe, MPF supports the Strategic Mobility Enhancement initiative and national military strategy through forward presence and crisis response. These ships are organized into three Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadrons (MPSRONS): MPSRON-1, based in the Mediterranean; MPSRON-2, based at Diego Garcia; and MPSRON-3, based in the Guam-Saipan area. MPSRONS are interoperable, with ships from one MPSRON interchangeable with ships from any other. MPF is flexible (from a Marine Expeditionary Unit to a Marine Expeditionary Force), employing from one to all thirteen ships (fourteen when the first of three funded MPF(E) ships is fielded in FY00). When needed, these ships move to a crisis region and offload in a benign environment either in port or offshore. Offloaded equipment and supplies are then married up with Marines arriving at nearby airfields. The end result is a combat ready Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) rapidly established ashore with minimal reception facilities. MPF is especially responsive to regional crises or natural disaster relief. MPF forces provide enough equipment and supplies to support a MAGTF (MEB is standard for MPF support) for its first 30 days of operations. MAGTF deployment planning and training is conducted by the Commanding Generals, II MEF (MPSRON 1); I MEF (MPSRON 2); and III MEF (MPSRON 3). The Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases, Albany, Georgia is responsible for attainment, prepositioning and maintenance of the Marine Corps supplies and equipment on each MPSRON. This is accomplished in conjunction with the Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEFs) through a maintenance cycle program conducted at the Blount Island facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The MPF ships are civilian owned and operated under long-term charter to the Military Sealift Command (MSC).

Marine Corps Position

A MPF remains a cost-effective, proven, and relevant capability for use in responding to crises overseas. It is consistent with "Forward... From the Sea" and significantly increases responsiveness to contingencies and improves operational flexibility for combat, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance operations.